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## IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently amended) An alkylation catalyst comprising a metal oxide wherein the catalyst has a surface area to volume ratio of about 950 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> to about 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> and further wherein the catalyst has a bimodal distribution of pores.
- 2. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the metal oxide comprises magnesium oxide, iron oxide or a combination of the foregoing.
  - 3. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the catalyst further comprises filler.
- 4. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the catalyst has pores with diameters of about 100 to about 400 Angstroms after calcination.
  - 5. (Cancelled)
- 6. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the catalyst is in the form of pellets having a surface area of about 100 square meters per gram to about 300 square meters per gram.
- 7. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the uncalcined catalyst is in the form of pellets having a pellet density of about 1.30 to about 2.10 grams per cubic centimeter.
- 8. (Original) The catalyst of claim1 having a surface area to volume ratio of about 1100 to about 3800 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>.
- 9. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the catalyst has an unpacked bulk density of about 900 to about 1200 kilograms per cubic meter.
- 10. (Original) The catalyst of claim 1, wherein the catalyst is in the form of pellets having a diameter of about 1.0 to about 4.0 millimeters and a height of about 2.0 to about 3.0 millimeters.
- 11. (Currently amended) An alkylation catalyst comprising a metal oxide wherein the catalyst has an aspect ratio of about 0.7 to about 1.0; and

further wherein the catalyst has a bimodal distribution of porcs; and

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further wherein the catalyst is in the form of pellets having a pellet density of about 1.3 to about 2.10 grams per cubic centimeter.

- 12. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, wherein the metal oxide comprises magnesium oxide, iron oxide or a combination of the foregoing.
  - 13. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, wherein the catalyst further comprises a filler,
- 14. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, wherein the catalyst has pores with diameters of about 100 to about 400 Angstroms after calcinations.
  - 15. (Cancelled)
- 16. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, wherein the catalyst is in the form of pellets having a surface area of about 100 square meters per gram to about 300 square meters per gram.
  - 17. (Cancelled)
- 18. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, having a surface area to volume ratio of about  $4000 \text{ m}^2/\text{m}^3$ .
- 19. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, wherein the catalyst has an unpacked bulk density of about 900 to about 1200 kilograms per cubic meter.
- 20. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11, wherein the catalyst is in the form of pellets having a diameter of about 1.0 to about 4.0 millimeters and a height of about 2.0 to about 3.0 millimeters.

## 21-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) An alkylation catalyst comprising a metal oxide wherein the catalyst is in the form of pellets having a diameter of about 1.0 to about 4.0 millimeters and a height of about 2.0 to about 3.0 millimeters and further wherein the catalyst has a bimodal distribution of pores.

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- 30. (Original) The catalyst of claim 29, wherein the metal oxide comprises magnesium oxide, iron oxide or a combination of the foregoing.
  - 31. (Original) The catalyst of claim 29, wherein the catalyst further comprises filler.
- 32. (Original) The catalyst of claim 29, wherein the catalyst has pores with diameters of about 100 to about 400 Angstroms after calcination.
  - 33. (Cancelled)
- 34. (Original) The catalyst of claim 29, wherein the catalyst has an unpacked bulk density of about 900 to about 1200 kilograms per cubic meter.